

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A container with a removable handle, comprising:
 - a container having spaced first and second knobs;
 - a split tubular member having a central portion and spaced internal first and second contoured portions proximate opposite ends thereof, each of said contoured portions configured to receive one of said knobs, said first and second contoured portions being tensionably engaged with said first and second knobs when said central portion is grasped by a user, and at least two radially spaced openings extending through said central portion, said radially spaced openings axially aligned along an axis substantially perpendicular to a central axis of said split tubular member.
2. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said split tubular member is formed from a flexibly resilient material.
3. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 2, wherein said flexibly resilient material is plastic.
4. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 3, wherein said split tubular member is injection molded plastic.
5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said ~~central portion includes at least~~ two radially spaced openings are proximate said first contoured portion.
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) The container and removable handle of claim 6 ~~7~~, wherein each of said openings has an elliptical configuration.
9. (currently amended) The container and removable handle of claim 6, wherein said central portion further includes third and fourth ~~two~~ radially spaced openings proximate said second contoured portion.
10. (currently amended) The container and removable handle of claim 9, wherein said third and fourth radially ~~two~~ spaced openings are axially aligned from each other.
11. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein each of said contoured portions is C-shaped in cross-section.
12. (withdrawn) The container and removable handle of claim 11, wherein at least one of said contoured portions includes a dimple extending outwardly from a periphery of said contoured portion.

13. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said central portion has a first diameter, and at least one of said contoured portions has a second diameter differing from said first diameter.
14. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 13, wherein said second diameter is less than said first diameter.
15. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said container is selected from the group consisting of a PET bottle, a plastic casing of an automotive battery, a plastic traffic barrier, and a plastic drum.
16. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said first and second knobs are axially aligned.
17. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said first and second knobs have an elliptical configuration.
18. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said first and second knobs have a cylindrical configuration.

19. (withdrawn) The container of and removable handle of claim 18, wherein at least one of said first and second knobs includes a lug extending outwardly from a side of said knob.

20. (original) The container and removable handle of claim 1, wherein said split tubular member is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of metal and plywood.

Claims 21-37 (canceled)